

CAVERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Mrs Jane Olds, Parish Clerk
13 Oak Close, BICESTER, Oxfordshire OX26 3XD
01869 247171 caversfield.parishclerk@gmail.com www.caversfieldpc.org.uk

The Rev'd Verena Breed
Rector
Saint Edburg's Church Office
Church Hall
Old Place Yard
OX26 6AU

6 July 2017

Dear Mrs Breed,

Re: St Laurence, Caversfield

As the Clerk to the Parish Council, I would like to confirm the Parish Council's strong support for the proposed renovation and access works for St Laurence's Church, Caversfield.

As the only public building in the village, if it were more accessible and had more facilities, it would provide a focal point for all members of the community, both from Caversfield and Elmsbrook (the Eco Town) and not only for those who regularly attend services.

Access is currently very limited, both in terms of physical access to the church and parking facilities close to the church which the Parish Council is aware has deterred a number of villagers who would like to use the Church. Indeed, the Parish Council Chairman uses a mobility scooter and it is not possible for him to currently attend any services or meetings at his Parish Church as it is inaccessible to wheelchairs or other motorised mobility aids. There are also issues for the growing number of families with young children in the area trying to access the church with prams and pushchairs.

Whilst the Parish Council understands that the current arrangement to allow parking in Home Farm drive is generous, there are safety concerns regarding the need to cross the busy, pavement-less B4100 and a number of families and independent, but less-able bodied, visitors are put off.

The Parish Council is mindful of the War Graves in the churchyard, particularly with the RAF and USAF Service history of the village. With the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the Great War and the 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War due in the next two years, it would be good if these graves could also be made more accessible for remembrance.

The Parish Council is also acutely aware of the necessity of making sure that the Grade II* listed building, which is one of the oldest and most picturesque in the village, is watertight and safe for future generations, but realises the financial constraints on small congregations and communities makes this burden extremely onerous.

I trust that this is of help to the application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Olds'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Jane Olds (Mrs)